Fréchet wins 2007 Dickson Prize

MSD investigator Jean Fréchet has been awarded the 2007 Dickson Prize for discoveries that "have significantly impacted—and continue to impact—varied fields of science, including polymer chemistry, microelectronics and biomedical engineering."

The Dickson Prize in Science, established in 1970, is presented by Carnegie Mellon University to the researcher judged to have made the most progress in the field of natural sciences, engineering, computer science or mathematics in the past year. In addition to receiving a medal and a cash prize, the awardee presents the annual Dickson Prize Lecture at Carnegie Mellon.

Fréchet is the Scientific Director of the Organic and Macromolecular Facility of the Molecular Foundry at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory where he is a Senior Faculty Scientist. He also holds the Henry Rapoport Chair of Organic Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is also Professor of Chemical Engineering. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering, Fréchet holds more than 70 U.S. patents and has co-authored over 750 scientific papers

Fréchet's research focuses on organic synthesis and polymer chemistry as applied to nanoscience and nanotechnology, specifically the design, fundamental understanding, synthesis and application of functional macromolecules. Among his many accomplishments is the development of chemical amplification, a method which enabled the production of photoresists and integrated circuits, components key in the development of the modern computer and other electronics. Some of his most recent work focuses on using polymers for therapeutic uses including targeted drug, vaccine and DNA delivery.

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